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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/043,231	01/14/2002	Takeyoshi Ito	0879-0370P	6198
2292	7590	04/19/2006	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				HO, TUAN V
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		2622		

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/043,231	ITO, TAKEYOSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tuan V. Ho	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 January 2002.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3-14 and 16-34 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,3-14 and 16-34 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

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1. The allowance of claims 4-9, 13, 15-17 and 25-28 are withdrawn due to newly found prior art. The examiner regrets any inconvenience to Applicant.

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 4-14 and 16-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

3. It should be noted that art unit 2615 has been changed to Art Unit 2622.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 3, 5-14, 16-24 and 26-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cheever et al (US 6,275,882).

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With regard to claim 1, Cheever et al discloses in Figs. 1 and 3, a hot docking system that comprises the digital camera (digital camera 104), cradle (cradle 103 is on a surface of the computer system, col. 5, line 14) having a first communication terminal (interface 102, col. 2, line 48) through which an external apparatus (computer system 100 includes a computer) capable of two-way communication is connectable so that the digital camera performs two-way communication with the external apparatus when so connected (col. 2, line 35), the digital camera comprising a second communication terminal (interface 106, col. 2, line 47) which is connected to the first communication terminal when the digital camera is mounted on the cradle (col. 2, lines 33-51), and a detection device that automatically changes an operation mode of the camera when the camera is mounted in the cradle enabling communication with the external device (a CPU of computer system 100 col. 3, lines 1-37 and step 206, lines 63-67).

With regard to claim 3, Cheever et al discloses in Figs. 1 and 3, a hot docking system that comprises the detection device which detects the digital camera being mounted on the cradle, wherein when the detection device detects the digital camera being mounted on the cradle, the digital camera changes an

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operation mode thereof (a CPU of computer system 100, col. 3, lines 1-25).

With regard to claim 5, Cheever et al discloses in Figs. 1 and 3, a hot docking system that comprises the device which turns a camera power supply on and off according to an operation of a power supply switch provided at the cradle (computer system 100 inherently includes a circuit that is used to turn on and off automatically power supply of digital camera 104 after the camera is contact to pins of interface 102 in cradle 103, col. 2, lines 38-44).

With regard to claim 6, Cheever et al discloses in Figs. 1 and 3, a hot docking system that comprises when the camera power supply is turned on by the operation of the power supply switch provided at the cradle, the digital camera sets an operation mode thereof at a communication mode for communicating with the external apparatus (col. 2, lines 39-45).

With regard to claim 7, Cheever et al discloses in Figs. 1 and 3, a hot docking system that comprises the second terminal which is connected to a first terminal provided at the cradle when the digital camera is mounted on the cradle, a signal according to the operation of the power supply switch being outputted through the first terminal (connecting pads of digital

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camera 104 are connected to pins of cradle 103, col. 2, lines 60-67).

With regard to claim 8, Cheever et al discloses in Figs. 1 and 3, a hot docking system that comprises the power input terminal which is connected to a power output terminal provided at the cradle when the digital camera is mounted on the cradle, DC power being outputted through the power output terminal (connecting pads of digital camera 104 are connected to pins of cradle 103, col. 2, lines 60-67); and a charging device which charges a battery in the digital camera by the DC power inputted through the power input terminal when the camera power supply is turned off, the charging device prohibiting charging of the battery when the camera power supply is turned on (Cheever et al discloses in column 4, lines 29-36, that the multimedia device may also use the power from the computer to recharge the battery; in other words, when camera 104 receives a DC power supply from computer system 100, the power of camera 100 must be inherently turned off in order to receive a different power from computer 100 and at the same time, computer power is used to recharge the battery of camera 104).

With regard to claim 9, Cheever et al discloses in Figs. 1 and 3, a hot docking system that comprises the cradle has a recess which guides the digital camera (recess 103); the power

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output terminal of the cradle is arranged at a bottom of the recess (interface 102 of the cradle); the power input terminal of the digital camera is arranged at a bottom of the digital camera (interface 106 of camera 104); and the power input terminal of the digital camera is connected to the power output terminal of the cradle in synchronization with operation of mounting the digital camera on the cradle (column 3, lines 45-50 and column 4, line 1-5).

With regard to claim 10, Cheever et al discloses in Figs. 1 and 3, a hot docking system that comprises the audio/video output terminal which is connected to an audio/video input terminal provided at the cradle when the digital camera is mounted on the cradle (column 3, lines 7-15, column 52-62 and column 5, lines 1-6).

With regard to claim 11, Cheever et al discloses in Figs. 1 and 3, a hot docking system that comprises the cradle has a recess which guides the digital camera; the audio/video input terminal of the cradle is arranged at a bottom of the recess; the audio/video output terminal of the digital camera is arranged at a bottom of the digital camera; and the audio/video output terminal of the digital camera is connected to the audio/video input terminal of the cradle in synchronization with operation of mounting the digital camera on the cradle (column

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3, lines 7-15 and 45-62, column 5, lines 1-6, and column 3, lines 45-50).

With regard to claim 12, Cheever et al discloses in Figs. 1 and 3, a hot docking system that comprises the recess which guides the digital camera (indentation 103, col. 5, line 11).

With regard to claim 13, Cheever et al discloses in Figs. 1 and 3, a hot docking system that comprises the power input terminal which is connected to a power output terminal provided at the cradle when the digital camera is mounted on the cradle, DC power being outputted through the power output terminal; and a device (computer 100 automatically provides and a power supply to camera 104 and turns on camera operations so as to transfer the data to computer 100, column 4, lines 1-47) which turns on the camera power supply by operation of a power supply switch provided at the cradle on condition that the DC power is supplied through the power input terminal (interfaces 106 and 102).

With regard to claim 34, Cheever et al discloses in Figs. 1 and 3, a hot docking system that comprises the external device automatically detects the digital camera when mounted on the cradle and automatically starts a program for processing data received from the camera (Cheever et al discloses in column 2, lines 32-51, col. 3, 63-67 and col. 4, lines 25-31, that after

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connecting camera 104 to computer 100, computer 100 inherently starts a program in order to transfer or receive image data from camera 100, col. 4, lines 1-36).

With regard to claims 14, 16, 18, , 19, 20-22, claims 14, 16, 18, , 19, 20-22 recite what was discussed with respect to claims 1, 12 and 13.

With regard to claim 17, Cheever et al discloses in Figs. 1 and 3, a hot docking system that comprises the display input terminal (audio/video signals of camera 104 are processed from a processing circuit and outputted to interface 106; where connecting circuits between the processor and interfaces 106 are considered as input and output terminals) which is connected to a display output terminal provided at the digital camera when the digital camera is mounted on the digital camera mounting section (interface 106), a display signal being outputted through the display output terminal (video and audio signals of camera 100); and a display device which displays at least one of a communication state between the digital camera and the external apparatus and an on/off state of the camera power supply according to the display signal inputted through the display input terminal (display device 112 displays a status of communications between camera 104 and computer 100; where the error indicator can be inherently interpreted as an on/off state

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of power supply because if there is no power supply from camera 104, the error status is displayed, col. 4, lines 25-47).

With regard to claims 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, claims 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 recite what was discussed with respect to claims 1, 3, 5, 9 11 and 12.

With regard to claim 26, Cheever et al discloses the same subject matter as discussed with respect to claim 1.

Cheever et al discloses in column 4, lines 25-47 that computer 100 inherently includes a switch that is used to supply electrical power to camera 104 so as to save camera battery power when connected to computer 100 (col. 3, lines 63-67 and col. 4, lines 25-36). Furthermore, since computer 104 can supply electrical power to camera 104, camera 104 must inherently include a switch that is used to turn camera on or off in accordance with the switch operation of computer 100.

With regard to claim 27, Cheever et al discloses in Figs. 1 and 3, a hot docking system that comprises when the camera power supply is turned on by the operation of the power supply switch provided at the cradle, the digital camera sets an operation mode thereof at a communication mode for communicating with the external apparatus (column 3, lines 63-67).

With regard to claim 28, Cheever et al discloses in Figs. 1 and 3, a hot docking system that comprises the cradle further

comprises a first terminal through which a signal according to the operation of the power supply switch is outputted (interface 102 of the cradle), the digital camera further comprises a second terminal which is connected to the first terminal (interface 106); and the first terminal and the second terminal are connected to each other when the digital camera is mounted on the camera mounting section (interface 102 of the cradle and interface 106 and camera 104).

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheever et al in view of Fellegara et al (US 5,845,166).

With regard to claim 25, Cheever et al discloses the same subject matter as discussed with respect to claims 1 and 8, except that the digital camera further comprises a detection device which detects the digital camera being mounted on the

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cradle; and at least one of an image display device and a character display device, wherein if communication between the digital camera and the external apparatus is impossible when the detection device detects the digital camera being mounted on the cradle, the at least one of the image display device and the character display device displays a warning.

It should be noted that the system of Cheever et al can display a warning status, col. 4, lines 37-47.

Fellegara et al discloses in Figs. 3-5 that camera 10 includes LCD status display unit 22 and screen display unit 36, col. 4, line 10 and line 35 so that the camera can display camera status and image signal at the same time and thereby easily for a user to confirm a status of the camera while watching an image displayed on unit 36.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate display units 22 and 36 of Fellegara et al in the docking system of Cheever et al so as obtain a digital camera that can display a status and image at the same time and thereby to easily to confirm operations of the camera.

Claim 4 recites what was discussed with respect to claim 25.

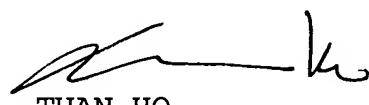
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6. This Office action is not made Final since new grounds of rejection are applied to the claims.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUAN HO whose telephone number is (571) 272-7365. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7AM to 4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's acting supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (572) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.



TUAN HO

Primary Examiner

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